

## A B S T R A C T

The invention proposes a method of synchronizing data between a computer and a portable appliance over a serial link. The computer sends a change-of-protocol AT command to the appliance to specify a proprietary protocol for use in synchronization. The appliance sends a response to change over to the specified proprietary protocol. The data in the computer and the appliance is then synchronized using the proprietary protocol. The invention also provides a portable appliance having a serial port, an AT interpreter interpreting commands received over the serial port until a change-of-protocol command is received, and a proprietary synchronization protocol interpreter interpreting the commands received over the serial link after a change-of-protocol command has been received. The invention enables data to be synchronized between a computer and a portable appliance using a standard serial link and without using proprietary interfaces.